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THE HONORABLE RICHARD A. JONES

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

ABDIQAFAR WAGAFE, *et al.*, on behalf
of themselves and others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, President of the
United States, *et al.*,

Defendants.

No. 2:17-cv-00094-RAJ

**DECLARATION OF MEHDI
OSTADHASSAN IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR
SUMMARY JUDGEMENT**

**NOTE ON MOTION CALENDAR:
July 2, 2020**

I, Mehdi Ostadhassan, hereby declare:

1. I am a named plaintiff in *Wagafe, et. al v. Joseph R. Biden, et al.*
2. The information contained in this declaration is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and I am of majority age and competent to testify about the matters set forth herein.
3. I am a citizen of Iran and a practicing Muslim.
4. I came to the United States initially in August 2009 as a doctoral student studying petroleum engineering at the University of North Dakota. As a Ph.D. student, I worked on a Department of Energy-funded project studying oil production from the Bakken, one of the most prolific and strategic shale plays in the United States, from 2009-2013. During this time, I published numerous studies on characterization of shale plays, drilling safely in the Bakken, and successfully implementing stimulation plans in it, e.g. hydraulic fracturing. This was during the time when the combination of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling became vital to produce

1 from shale oils, and it was being tested in the Bakken. It was well understood that shale plays are
2 complicated, hence the application of such methods could be risky. During my PhD, I investigated
3 the complicated nature of the Bakken without which deployment of stimulation plans cannot
4 provide us desirable outcomes. I presented my findings in several annual meetings (American
5 Rock Mechanics Association, Society of Petroleum Engineers and American Association of
6 Petroleum Geologists) where thousands of scientists gather. Moreover, I published the results in
7 mainstream journals of my field.

8 5. I earned my Ph.D. in Petroleum Engineering from the University of North Dakota
9 in 2013. My dissertation was about geomechanics and elastic anisotropy of the Bakken Shale. The
10 novelty of my research was that I proposed models to predict mechanical behavior of the Bakken
11 Shale Play, a critical characteristic for safe production, drilling and fracturing by considering its
12 complex nature.

13 6. Right before I earned my degree, I was hired to work at the University of North
14 Dakota's Energy and Environmental Research Center ("EERC"), a research center funded by the
15 Department of Energy which used to be a national lab during the 1970s. EERC had funded my
16 PhD in the last semesters. To get hired at this job involved passing a government background
17 check. In this role, under the "research scientist" title, I created geologic models and processed
18 and interpreted seismic and well log data for the Bell Creek oil field in Montana.

19 7. Shortly after that, in 2013, when I graduated, I was hired as an Assistant Professor
20 of Petroleum Engineering at the University of North Dakota, a tenure-track position.

21 8. As a Professor, I published numerous research papers, most of which focus on
22 developing methods to better understand unconventional reservoirs such as shale oil and gas that
23 are strategic and critical to U.S. energy independence. In my research group, we investigated how
24 the most advanced experimental equipment can give us insight to the transport and storage
25 properties of shale, and potential means of extracting resources and enhancing hydrocarbon
26 recovery from shale oil reserves. Through the expertise that I gained by utilizing advanced
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1 analytical equipment that are not commonly used in petroleum engineering in my research, I was
2 able to branch into other fields of science with a broader impact.

3 9. I also taught many undergraduate and graduate level (MS and PhD) classes and
4 have advised and graduated approximately 6 Ph.D. and 8 MSc students at the University of North
5 Dakota, two post-doctoral researcher and 5 researchers at the level of associate professor.

6 10. In 2018, due to my close collaboration with the United States Geological Survey
7 (“USGS”) and joint publications in the highest regarded geosciences journals, UND entered a
8 technical assistance agreement with USGS to enable us to freely share technical information and
9 our discoveries in the study of U.S. shale plays. The USGS committed to support my research by
10 performing advanced analytical experiments that would directly contribute to the production and
11 development of the U.S. shale plays.

12 11. Also in 2018, I proposed a quantitative (vs. pathological which is qualitative)
13 method for cancer diagnosis based on AFM force spectroscopy combined with data analytics to
14 dean of UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Together with a team of other researchers,
15 we submitted this idea in a proposal to the State of North Dakota. The State awarded us a grant for
16 \$480k to perform this work in mid-2018. Later, I was also invited by a professor at UND
17 Biomedical Sciences to be part of the commercialization team for his project that was awarded by
18 the National Science Foundation (NSF), which was a novel technique for RNA sequencing. Our
19 research group was selected and financially supported by the National Institute of Health (NIH) to
20 go through an intensive and highly prestigious business program, known as I-Corps, that took
21 place in California and Washington, DC, for two months, during the summer of 2018.

22 12. It was through these collaborations that I was appointed as the adjunct professor in
23 the Department of Biomedical Sciences in 2019 to teach the biophysics course for the first time at
24 UND School of Medicine. Later, I proposed an innovative technique to investigate Lyme’s
25 Disease, a tick-borne pathogen, which is very common in the U.S. and can become chronic, to
26 develop more robust treatment plans. I worked with a nationally known Lyme’s Disease researcher
27 on a proposal to NIH in 2018.
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1 13. My research group was also very active in researching additive manufacturing,
2 another field that the United States government considers an important area. As a part of our work
3 in this area, our group became a leader globally in work to integrate geosciences and 3D printing.
4 We published several papers focusing on whether it would be possible to replicate natural rocks
5 with 3D printing, and my efforts attracted Nature Journal to write an article about my research
6 progress in this emerging field (“Five innovative ways to use 3D printing in the laboratory” 2019
7 Jan; 565(7737):123-124). This research is important for NASA because they are interested in
8 printing rock-like habitats on the moon and other planets.

9 14. My research is frequently cited by other researchers, scientists, and professors in
10 many different fields, and as a result I have a high “h-index” score on Google Scholar. Although I
11 am still near the beginning of my career, based on these metrics, I am considered to be at the full
12 professor level (compared to other researchers at Tier 1 universities in similar field of science and
13 engineering). I also published the results of my research on shale plays as a book with Springer
14 Nature that is also translated into Chinese too due to its importance to China’s shale plays.

15 15. During my time as a Professor, I served as the graduate program director in the
16 petroleum engineering department, overseeing more than 40 MS and PhD students’ academics.

17 16. During the time my green card application was pending, I also got many invitations
18 as guest speaker for conferences around the globe but due to my pending application, I could not
19 accept any of them. I was afraid that if I left the United States, I wouldn’t be able to return because
20 my green card had not been approved, and this critically limited me to expand my network and
21 establish new collaborations with other scientists that could have benefitted me and the United
22 States.

23 17. In August 2019, I earned tenure and was promoted to the associate professor level
24 after undergoing a rigorous evaluation for my research, teaching, and service by external
25 reviewers, the committee at the college of engineering and mines, and the committee at the
26 university. The entire process took almost one year. These committees typically rely on the
27 feedback and evaluation that are provided to them by the external referees and endorsement by the
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1 department chair. In my case, four of the most prominent scientists in the field of petroleum
2 engineering reviewed my application package and highly recommended my tenure and promotion
3 to be granted.

4 18. But two months later, on October 5th, 2019, I lost my position when USCIS
5 terminated my employment authorization, following their denial in April of my I-485 adjustment
6 of status application. Losing my position so shortly after achieving such an important career
7 milestone was incredibly upsetting.

8 19. Shortly before losing my position, I had been working towards publication of a
9 significant scientific discovery regarding a previously unknown microbe that I had discovered to
10 be a source of H₂S gas. Production of H₂S is a notable concern in oil fields in North Dakota and
11 many other states, including Texas. This gas endangers the health of field workers, is very
12 corrosive, and imposes an economic burden to oil companies. I competed within UND to get
13 funding for two years to hire a post-doctorate researcher on this topic, got the award and hired a
14 microbiologist, and then advertised for and obtained funding from an oil company to perform
15 research I also created a consortium and submitted a research proposal to the state which got
16 approved for almost half a million dollars in funding in October 2020.

17 20. Unfortunately, the award came around the time I was losing my job at UND.
18 Because I had a relationship with oil industry in the state, our industry partners in the project
19 provided me with oil and water that was produced from the oil wells a few months before. Through
20 16S RNA sequencing of the nucleus that was isolated from the liquid samples, we discovered a
21 previously unknown anerobic microbe that had become trapped a hundred million years ago in the
22 subsurface and, we discovered, was now creating the H₂S gas by digesting the oil. This discovery
23 has significant importance because, among other things, it helps us to understand the source of
24 H₂S gas and opens new horizons for understanding antimicrobial resistance in human health and
25 developing new drugs.
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1 21. However, because I had lost my job at University of North Dakota due to USCIS's
2 decision, I was not able to continue the research and publish my research findings. These findings
3 could have become a turning point in my career.

4 22. I met my wife, Bailey Bubach, when I was a student at the University of North
5 Dakota. She is the assistant dean of the college of engineering and mines for student affairs and a
6 faculty of Petroleum Engineering Department at the University of North Dakota who teaches both
7 undergraduate and graduate level courses and contributes to my research in a variety of ways. We
8 began dating in 2012, and we married in 2014. She is a United States citizen.

9 23. Bailey and I have two children who are United States citizens, now aged 4.5 and
10 17 months.

11 24. In February 2014, shortly after marrying Bailey, I applied to adjust status and
12 become a permanent legal resident in the United States. Bailey also submitted an I-130 application
13 to have me recognized as her husband so that I could adjust status. We submitted these forms on
14 our own, without the assistance of a lawyer.

15 25. USCIS scheduled an interview with me in spring 2014 at USCIS's closest field
16 office, located in St. Paul, Minnesota. Bailey and I arrived at the appointment for my interview on
17 time, but after having us wait in the lobby for two hours, USCIS cancelled the interview. USCIS
18 never explained why it cancelled that interview.

19 26. After receiving no word from USCIS for several months after that, I scheduled
20 another appointment with USCIS in St. Paul to ask about our applications. When we arrived at that
21 appointment, a clerk told me that a "third party" was investigating the applications. USCIS gave
22 me no further information.

23 27. On October 23, 2014, I received a call from a person who identified himself as
24 Agent Richard with the FBI. He told me he would like to talk to me about my recent trip to Iran,
25 the purpose of which had been for Bailey to meet my family and to celebrate our marriage. Agent
26 Richard suggested that we meet at a coffee shop in Grand Forks, North Dakota to talk, and I
27 initially agreed because I thought I may be required to do so under the law.
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1 28. After that call, I consulted with a lawyer, Sabrina Balamwalla, to assist us with
2 our applications and advise us about speaking with the FBI. Ms. Balamwalla told us that meeting
3 with the FBI was voluntary and that the FBI had a history of using these interviews to pressure
4 people with pending immigration applications to serve as confidential informants in exchange for
5 the FBI recommending the approval of their application to USCIS. Given that, I decided I did not
6 want to meet with Agent Richard unless he told me more about what he wanted to talk about first.
7 Ms. Balamwalla called him, and he confirmed the interview was voluntary but would not give us
8 further information, so I decided not to meet with him.

9 29. Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of an FBI memo on its
10 attempt to interview me that I received in response to a Freedom of Information Act request.

11 30. USCIS finally scheduled our interview for September 24, 2015. After that, we
12 formally retained Ms. Balamwalla to represent us at the interview. Based on her advice, I
13 provided an amendment to my application to provide a more comprehensive list of organizations
14 I have been affiliated with since my 16th birthday. I had not provided this more comprehensive
15 list before because, prior to hiring our lawyer and speaking to her about our applications, I had not
16 understood the question about “membership” and “affiliation” on the application as asking for that
17 information, so I had not realized such a comprehensive list was required.

18 31. At the interview on September 24, 2015, the USCIS interviewing officers
19 questioned Bailey and myself extensively about our religious practices, the mosques we have
20 attended, any religious or other trips we have made, and our participation in religious
21 organizations. Bailey also told me that the USCIS officers asked her if I had required her to convert
22 to Islam before we married, and if I required her to wear the hijab.

23 32. On March 24, 2017, USCIS finally approved Bailey’s I-130 petition to recognize
24 our marriage.

25 33. But on April 5, 2017, USCIS issued a Notice of Intent to Deny my adjustment of
26 status application because USCIS stated I did not initially disclose my full list of affiliations and
27 associations.
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1 34. On May 5, 2017, my lawyer responded to the Notice of Intent to Deny with a letter
2 and additional evidence explaining that my initial omission of those affiliations was inadvertent
3 and the result of me misunderstanding the question in the application without help from a lawyer.

4 35. Despite this, in October 2017, USCIS notified me that my adjustment of status
5 application was denied as a matter of discretion based on my initial failure to disclose my full list
6 of affiliations.

7 36. Shortly thereafter, I submitted a second adjustment of status application with
8 additional exhibits explaining my prior military service, training, affiliations and memberships,
9 and employment.

10 37. In April 2019, USCIS denied my second adjustment of status application, again as
11 a matter of discretion based on my initial failure to disclose my full list of affiliations.

12 38. If there are other reasons why USCIS denied my applications, USCIS never
13 informed me or gave me a chance to respond.

14 39. Because my applications were denied, I lost my tenured position at the University
15 of North Dakota, my ability to publish about the important scientific discovery I'd made, and the
16 ability to continue all my other research in the United States. I lost my position on the graduate
17 student committee at NASA Johnson Space Center because I lost my affiliation with UND. And
18 in the time since I was forced to leave UND, my research team at UND has been dismantled and
19 almost all members have left the university.

20 40. Losing my tenured position and any opportunity to lawfully remain in the United
21 States has been extraordinarily painful. That was my dream job. I came from a low-income family
22 and as long as I can remember, I wanted to become a professor in America. I achieved that dream,
23 but I never got to enjoy it. Even prior to losing my position, I lost many opportunities for
24 networking and funding because either I was not able to travel and/or most government agencies
25 required a green card to be eligible to apply for grants. I had to renew my work permit every year,
26 and there was always the stress that it might not come in time. But even then, I never stopped
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1 working because I was hopeful and felt in debt of this country, and committed to the undergraduate
2 students I was training, my PhD students, and my partners in the private sector.

3 41. Before I lost my job on October 5, 2019, I was on the verge of reaching the peak
4 of my academic career. But then I had to abandon everything, feeling that it was nothing but a
5 dream. Shortly after gaining tenure, the department chair had suggested I take over his role as the
6 next department chair since he saw the qualities of a leader and a well-established researcher in
7 me. I had worked with him closely for several years. This could have opened new doors, but
8 everything just crumbled right in front of me.

9 42. Given my inability to continue working in the United States, I was forced to pursue
10 employment elsewhere. I obtained a position in China, as a distinguished professor of Earth
11 Sciences at North East Petroleum University and a member of the National Key Laboratory of
12 Unconventional Hydrocarbon Shale Accumulation and Efficient Development in Daqing, the “Oil
13 Capital of China.” Bailey and I planned to move there in early 2020. We left the United States in
14 January 2020 and first went to Iran to visit my family. But the COVID-19 pandemic hit, while we
15 were there. As a result, we were unable to move to China as planned. Because of the pandemic, I
16 still have not been able to go begin my new job in China.

17 43. Due to the extreme uncertainty caused by COVID-19, we decided that Bailey and
18 our children should return to the United States for the sake of their health and safety. The United
19 States is Bailey and my children’s home country—and much of Bailey’s extended family remains
20 in North Dakota. They went back to the United States in the summer of 2020. They came back to
21 visit me in December and left for the second time in mid-January 2021. I have now been separated
22 from Bailey and my children for a total of 8 months.

23 44. Through the years of waiting for my green card application to be approved, my
24 family and I suffered other harms as well. I was the main provider for the family as soon as Bailey
25 and I got married. But when I applied to get a loan to buy us a house, the bank could not give me
26 the loan because my work permit was only valid for one year (subject to renewals). So, we had to
27 rent. Besides the amount of money that we lost in renting, the notion of not having a permanent
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1 place to raise our family was very saddening. Because I couldn't travel overseas, I lost two of my
2 grandparents in Iran during these years, missed my brother's wedding and felt totally disconnected
3 from my family in Iran. The amount of stress that Bailey and I went through was immense and
4 each letter we received from USCIS took an emotional toll. We felt we are living the American
5 Dream but when my green card application was denied, I started to question it. From April 17,
6 2019, when my application was denied, until today, our family has lost around \$150k in income.
7 From that day forward, my driver's license expired too and I was not able to renew it. In the months
8 before leaving the United States, I was dependent on Bailey to drive me around. When she was
9 pregnant with our second son, being in excruciating pain and having contractions, she had to pick
10 me up from the coffeeshop on campus and drive herself to the hospital. Additionally, due to my
11 situation, Bailey has to make the decision of either staying and working in her position at the
12 University of North Dakota, or to leave the US while I pursue my career. She has also worked
13 extremely hard to be in her position and she may have to abandon her hard work, due to the
14 outcome of USCIS decision.

15 45. During all these years, Bailey and I knew that we are productive members of this
16 society and we are contributing to the education and scientific advancements of United States,
17 especially in the energy sector. But now USCIS says I cannot call the United States home, so
18 Bailey has to raise our children as a single mother, and I am missing the most precious years and
19 moments of our sons' childhoods. I have missed my youngest son's first steps. And not being in
20 my older son's life, in the critical time that he should start to look up to his father and see him as
21 his life's hero, really bothers me and as Bailey tells me, it is very hard on him too. Bailey and I
22 have lost meaning and sense of purpose in our life, and all of our efforts currently are focused on
23 not allowing this situation and being apart affect our marriage.

24 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

25 EXECUTED this 24th day of March, 2021, in Karaj, Iran.

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Mehdi Ostadhassan

EXHIBIT A



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

November 18, 2016

MS. KATHERINE TRAVERSO
ACLU OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
1313 WEST EIGHTH STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90017

FOIPA Request No.: 1333002-000
Subject: OSTADHASSAN, MEHDI

Dear Ms. Traverso:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Explanation of Exemptions:

Section 552		Section 552a
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(A)	<input type="checkbox"/> (d)(5)
<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(B)	<input type="checkbox"/> (j)(2)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(C)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(1)
<u>50 U.S.C. 3024 (j)(1)</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(D)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(2)
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(E)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(3)
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(F)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(4)
<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(4)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(8)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(5)
<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(5)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(9)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(6)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(6)		<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(7)

2 pages were reviewed and 2 pages are being released.

Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning, other Government Agency (ies) [OGA].

This information has been referred to the OGA(s) for review and direct response to you.

We are consulting with another agency. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is completed.

In accordance with standard FBI practice and pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and Privacy Act exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. § 552/552a (b)(7)(E)/(j)(2)], this response neither confirms nor denies the existence of your subject's name on any watch lists.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist. Enclosed for your information is a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the www.fbi.gov/foia website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request. Your patience is appreciated.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at 877-684-6448, or by emailing ogis@nara.gov. Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing foipaquestions@ic.fbi.gov. If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s). If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing, and they will be reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit.

See additional information which follows.

Sincerely,



David M. Hardy
Section Chief
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

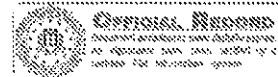
This material is being provided to you at no charge.

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS**SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552**

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.



~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Electronic Communication

Title: (U//~~FOUO~~) Attempt to interview Mehdi Ostadhassan.

Date: 10/28/2014

From: MINNEAPOLIS

[Redacted]

b7E

Contact:

[Redacted]

Approved By: SSA [Redacted]

b6
b7C

Drafted By: [Redacted]

(S) Case ID #: [Redacted]

(U)
~~(S//NF)~~ [Redacted]
[Redacted] (S)

b1
b3
b7E

Synopsis: (U//~~FOUO~~) Documents attempt to interview Mehdi Ostadhassan.

~~Reason: 1.4(c)
Derived From: Multiple Sources
Declassify On: 20391231~~

[Redacted]

b7E

Details:

(U//~~FOUO~~) On 10/23/2014, writer contacted Mehdi Ostadhassan at telephone number [Redacted]. Ostadhassan stated that he was at a conference in West Virginia but would be in the Minneapolis area on 10/27/2014, for an appointment with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Ostadhassan agreed to contact writer following his appointment with USCIS in order establish a time and place to meet.

(U//~~FOUO~~) On 10/24/2014, writer was contacted by [Redacted] [Redacted] telephone [Redacted] stated that she was an attorney that worked on immigration matters at the University of North Dakota (UND). She provided that Ostadhassan did not want to meet with

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b7C

CLASSIFIED BY: NSICG 312J92T64
REASON: 1.4 (C)
DECLASSIFY ON: 12-31-2039
DATE: 11-08-2016

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

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Title: (U//FOUO) Attempt to interview Mehdi Ostadhassan.

(S) Re: [redacted] 10/28/2014 b1
b3

the FBI. She was advised that meeting with the FBI was voluntary. (A search of UND's website confirmed [redacted] was a faculty member there.)

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